THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (d) The Eighth Plan will be finalised taking into account the existing approach paper document and the current economic situation. Secteral priorities and allocations will be indicated in the Eighth Plan document on the basis of the reformulated proposals about schemes and programmes for which the Central Ministries and the State Governments, including the Government of Karnataka, have been requested.

Shortage of Foodgrains

3118. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a great shortage of foodgrains in the food reserves in the country ;

(b) if so, the reserve position of foodgrains during 1989-90 and 1990-91 and the latest position till date ;

(c) whether the shortage of foodgrains has resulted in increase in their prices ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) No, Madam. The stock position of foodgrains with the public agencies was of the order of 13.05 million tonnes, 20.31 million tonnes and 21.07 million tonnes respectively as on 1st July of 1989, 1990 and 1991.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) and (b) above.

Translation

Refund of Advance Deposits to Consumers

3119 SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that M/s. Lohia Machines Limited have not made the refund of advance deposits to the consumers ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the amount outstanding for payment to consumers and the time by which this payment is likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : (a) Govt. are aware that there has been undue delay by M/s. Lohia Machines Ltd. in making refund of the advance deposits on cancellation of the bookings by the customers.

(b) and (c) The company has reported that as on 30-6-91, they have refunded full advance with applicable interest in 8,99,090 cases and made part payment with interest in 98,572 cases. A total of Rs. 85 crores has already been refunded. According to the company, 4,13,080 requests for refund, involving Rs. 30.89 crores are still pending. Out of this, in 98,572 requests, only part payment of principal alongwith applicable interest rate is involved. The company has not been able to make refunds in all the pending cases due to unforeseen circumstances that severely affected its liquidity position. The company expects to clear the pending requests in the next 3-4 years and have confirmed that while extinguishing their liability, they shall pay interest as applicable.